

CHINESE CURRENCY OVERPRINT: THE 1917 ISSUE

7 dollars on 7 roubles

Perf. 13½, vertical laid paper, embossed

Two overprint plates of 25 clichés were used for the 7 roubles value - early printing at 38° and late printing at 48°



Yellow on grey-black 38° overprint



Dark yellow on black 48° overprint*



Light yellow on grey-black
38° overprint



Yaomeng station c.d.s.



Dark yellow on black
38° overprint



Pogranichnaya c.d.s.



Yellow on grey-black*
48° overprint



Inverted 48° overprint**
One sheet of 25 recorded

* This single is genuine, the 48° overprint block of four shown here is a forgery; the shape of the "O" is a distinguishing feature.

** This inverted overprint single is genuine, a block of six inverted overprint forgery is known.

CHINESE CURRENCY OVERPRINT: THE 1917 ISSUE

5 dollars on 5 roubles

Perf. 13½, wove paper with 1 mm varnish lines, no watermark, embossed



Indigo blue/green perforated OBRAZETS

38° overprint plate of 56 clichés was used for overprinting. Complete printer's sheet consists of one pane of 50 stamps plus 3 labels printed with colour chevrons at top and at bottom of the sheet and six rows of seven stamps. Note that each such label also bears the overprint.



38° ovpt. Ceresa F1 Forgery
Dark blue/green (1918), Typographed ovpt.



Inverted 38° overprint
Misplaced background
One sheet recorded



48° ovpt. Ceresa F2 Forgery
Indigo blue/green, grey-black ovpt.

CHINESE CURRENCY OVERPRINT: THE 1917 ISSUE

10 dollars on 10 roubles

Perf. 13½, wove paper with 1 mm varnish lines, no watermark, embossed



Red/yellow (1915)
Perforated OBRAZETS



Bright red/yellow, light grey centre (1918)



Carmine-red, grey centre (1918)



Bright red, grey centre (1918)



1918 Hankow c.d.s. type 2



Carmine-red, grey centre (1918)
Overprint forgery

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

In 1920, there was a shortage certain values for postcard and letter rate, the Harbin Post Office decided to overprint the remaining stock of Imperial Arms issue as *ad hoc* measure. The surcharging was done at the local Russian Cathedral printing works in a typographical setting of 50 (5x5 and 5x5) divided into left and right pane. Each sheet of 100 stamps was overprinted twice. Five values, 1 cent, 2 cent, 3 cent, 4 cent, 5 cent and 10 cent were overprinted.

A single setting was prepared for the word 'CENT.' in the second line, only the 'value' was changed in each printing. Alignments of the 'value' and the word 'cent' are also constant. Various studies established issue date between October and November 1920¹. All offices in north-eastern provinces ceased operation on 29 January 1921.

1 cent. Perf. 14 x 14½, on wove paper with 0.7mm or 1mm varnish lines, no watermark
Quantities overprinted unknown

1 cent. alignment varieties

1. Vertical line bisecting 'l' and left of 'e'
2. Vertical line bisecting 'l' and middle of 'e'
3. Vertical line bisecting 'l' and right of 'e'
4. Vertical line bisecting 'l' and between 'e' and 'n'
5. Vertical line bisecting 'l' and left leg of 'n'

1				5	6				10
									C
						t		C	
t				45	46	C		t	C
51				55	56				60
									C
						t		C	
t				95	96	C		t	C

1 cent. constant plate varieties

1. Broken "t" - Pos. 27 / 77
2. Italic "C" - Pos. 29 / 79
3. Antique "t" - Pos. 41 / 91
4. Cracked "C" - Pos. 47 / 97
5. Thick "t" - Pos. 49 / 99
6. Wide "C" - Pos. 50 / 100
7. Small "t" - Pos. unknown
8. Cracked "C" - Pos. 20 / 70



Alignment 1
Yellow-orange



Alignment 2
Yellow-orange



Alignment 3
Yellow-orange



Alignment 4
Small "t"



Alignment 4
Small "t"
0.7 mm lines²



Alignment 5
Yellow-orange



Above: Alignment 4 (Pos. 28 / 29 or Pos. 78 / 79) Italic "C"

Below: Alignment 5 (Pos. 38 / 39 or Pos. 88 / 89)

Manchuli c.d.s. Latest day 29.1.21

1. According to Tchilinghirian & Stephen, E. M. Osborn and Dr. Chen Wen-Shiang, research based on covers and cancels on stamps in extant.
 2. This comes from an earlier printing in pale-orange shade characterized by sharp thin 0.7mm varnish lines.

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

Imperf. 1 cent. on wove paper with 1mm varnish lines, no watermark
Quantities overprinted unknown



Alignment 1
Yellow-orange
Thick "t"
Pos. 49 / 99



Alignment 2
Yellow-orange
Cracked "C"
Pos. 47 / 97



Alignment 3
Orange
Pair from bottom row
Pos. unknown



Alignment 4
Yellow-orange
Small "t"
Pos. unknown



Alignment 5
Orange
Pos. unknown



Alignment 3
Bright orange
Pos. unknown

1				5	6				10
								C	
						t		C	
t				45	46	C		t	C
51				55	56				60
								C	
						t		C	
t				95	96	C		t	C



Alignment 3
Yellow-orange
Pos. unknown
Harbin Pier c.d.s.



Pos. 8-10, 17-20 or Pos. 58-60, 67-70
Cracked "C" 5+7 o'clock Pos. 20 / 70



Pos. 41
Antique "t"



Pos. 91
Antique "t"



Pos. unknown
Broken "t"



Pos. 49-50 or Pos. 99-100
Thick "t" / wide "C"

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

2 cent. Perf. 14 x 14½ on wove paper with 0.7 mm varnish lines, no watermark, 1000 sheets



Green
Blue ovpt.
Colour trial



Dull green
Rose ovpt.
2nd overprinting



Off-set on reverse



Misplaced
overprint

51				55
2				
t				
Худ. Тип. Америк. № 35				

Constant varieties
Pos. 81 "Swan neck 2"
Pos. 91 Antique "t"



One of two recorded blocks of the left pane*

* Another block of 25 from the upper left pane is reported in February 2010 Hong Kong Philatelic Society newsletter.

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

2 cent. on 2 kopecks

Gutter block from the bottom left and right pane

53		55	56		58
				f	
93		95	96	C	98
HK. No. 35					

Constant varieties

Pos. 27 / 77 Broken "f for t"

Pos. 47 / 97 Cracked "C" at 10 'oc



One of two largest multiple recorded*

*Reported in February 2010 Hong Kong Philatelic Society newsletter by the exhibitor. The other similar gutter block of 6 x 5 (Pos. 3-8, 43-48 / 53-58, 93-98) is illustrated in HKPS Journal 11 (2007).

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

3 cent. Perf. 14 x 14½, on wove paper with 1mm varnish lines, no watermark, 1000 sheets

Overprint setting characteristics: Gradual shift of "3" towards the right from the top to bottom row of each pane



Carmine from left pane
"3" over "en" + "3" over "n"

1				5	6				10
		n				f		C	
t				45	46			t	C
51				55	56				60
		n				f		C	
t				95	96			t	C



Carmine
"3" over "en"



Carmine
"3" over "n"

Carmine
"3" over "nt"



Carmine
Pos. 27 / 77
Broken "f for t"



Carmine-red
Pos. 29-30 / Pos. 79-80
Italic "C" Pos. 29 / 79



Carmine
Pos. 41 / 91
Antique "t"



Carmine
Pos. 49 / 99
Thick "t"



Carmine
Pos. 50 / 100
Wide "C"

Constant overprint varieties on the 3 cent.



Broken leg of "n" from left pane
Pos. 22-23/32-33/42-43 or
Pos. 72-73/82-83/92-93
Hailar c.d.s. early date 20.9.20



14 December 1920, 2 cent. & 3 cent. on part envelope used from Harbin, 5c local letter rate
One of few recorded commercial usage showing local rate

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

3 cent. on 3 kopecks

The Complete setting of 25 from the right upper pane and top two rows of the lower pane



6				10
	f		C	
nt.	C		t	C
56				60
66				70

Constant varieties

Pos. 27 / 77 Broken "t"

Pos. 29 / 79 Italic "C"

Pos. 46 / 96 Raised "t"

Pos. 47 / 97 Cracked "C" at 10 o'clock

Pos. 49 / 99 Thick "t"

Pos. 50 / 100 Wide "C"

Largest multiple recorded of this value*

*Second largest multiple being the two complete right panes of 25 recorded by the exhibitor

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

4 cent. Perf. 14 x 14½ on wove paper with 1 mm varnish lines, no watermark, 100 sheets



Deep rose
From left pane



Rose
0.7 mm varnish lines



Deep rose
Pos. 6-10, 16-20 / Pos. 56-60, 66-70



Manchuli c.d.s.
Latest date
29.1.21



Deep rose
Harbin c.d.s.
Antique "t"

1			5	6			10
				f		C	
t			45	46		t	C
51			55	56			60
				f		C	
t			95	96		t	C



Dull red
Pos. 27 / 77
Broken "f for t"



Dull red
Pos. 29 / 79
"Italic C"



Misplaced
overprint



Dull red
Small "4"



Rose-red
Broken legs of "n"

Inverted overprint



2 cent on 4k ©
double blue/black
Ovpt. colour trial



Dull red
One sheet recorded



Dull red
One sheet recorded
Harbin c.d.s.



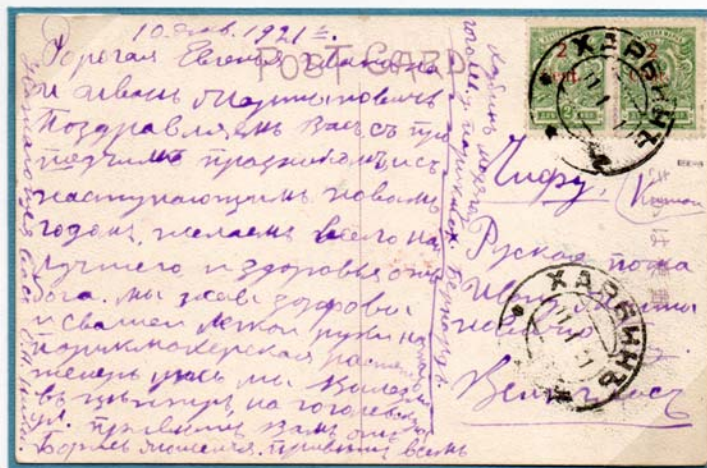
Dull red
One sheet recorded
Small "4"



Dull red
Ovpt. forgery ©

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

2cent., 3cent. & 4cent. – usage



11 January 1921 picture postcard from Harbin to Chefoo franked 2 cent on 2k pair from pos. 41 (antique t), 42 upper pane or pos. 91 (antique t), 92 lower pane

One of few commercial use of the 2 cent. on postcard *ex. Raymond Casey*



16 November 1920 uprated 10k postal stationery envelope from Harbin to Hailar station (C.E.R. Line 261/262)
On reverse Bukhedu station transit 17 November and Hailar station arrival 20 November
3 cent on 3k vertical pair from pos. 40, 50 (wide C) upper pane or 90, 100 (wide C) lower pane and 4 cent on 4k (antique t) from pos. 41 upper pane or pos. 91 lower pane.

One of few covers recorded with 3 cent. and 4 cent. *ex. Raymond Casey*

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

5 cent. Perf. 14 x 14½ on wove paper with 0.7 mm varnish lines, no watermark, 100 sheets



Light brownish lilac (1912)
From left upper or lower pane
Bottom row

1				5	6				10
						f		C	
t				45	46		t	C	
51				55	56				60
						f		C	
t				95	96		t	C	



Light brownish lilac (1912)
Pos. 28-30, 38-40, 48-50 /
Pos. 78-80, 88-90, 98-100



Rough perf. (1917)
"5" over "e"



Rough perf. (1917)
Italic "C" Pos. 29 / 79



Rough perf. (1917)
Wide "C" Pos. 50 / 100



Pos. 27 / 77
Broken "f for t"



Chalangtung station
1.17.21



Inverted "5" omitted
Ovpt. Forgery



"Cent." & "5" omitted
Ovpt. Forgery



Double "Cent." & "5" omitted
Ovpt. Forgery



Brownish lilac
0.7 mm varnish lines
Ovpt. Forgery
Ceresa F1



Brownish lilac
1 mm varnish lines
Ovpt. Forgery
Ceresa F1



Brownish lilac
1 mm varnish lines
Ovpt. Forgery on used
Ceresa F1



Dark brownish lilac
1 mm varnish lines
Ovpt. Forgery
Typographed



Dark brownish lilac
no varnish lines
Ovpt. Forgery
Harbin station c.d.s.

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

5 cent. Imperf. on wove paper with 1 mm varnish lines, no watermark, 50 sheets



Brownish lilac
(1917)



Pos. 29 / 79
Italic "C"



Pos. 50 / 100
Wide "C"



Inverted overprint
Brownish lilac



Inverted overprint
Broken leg of "n"



Double overprint
Vertical and sideways



Double overprint
Sideways



Double overprint
Vertical 3 mm spacing



Harbin Pier c.d.s.
4.1.21



Harbin c.d.s.
12.12.20



Double overprint
Harbin c.d.s. 26.1.21



Bukhedu station
28.1.21



Reddish brown-lilac
Ovpt. Forgery



Inverted overprint
Ovpt. Forgery



Double overprint
Ovpt. Forgery



0.7 mm varnish lines
"Cent." & "5" omitted
Ovpt. Forgery



1 mm varnish lines
Ovpt. Forgery
Ceresa F1

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

The "Inverted 5cent." cover



14 November 1920 7k postal stationery envelope correctly franked¹ imperf. 5 cent./5k. inverted overprint and 2 cent./2k. sent by the Chinese Eastern Railway Bukhedu station master to Harbin pier railway station. In 1920 the rate was 5c. per 15g. for letters sent within the network of the C.E.R. and the adjacent trans-siberian lines (Chita to Vladivostok)². Harbin Pier c.d.s. 16 November 1920 on reverse.

Only 5 cent. inverted overprint on cover recorded

ex. Horney, Raymond Casey

1. According to ref. 2, by this time, the only currency used in Manchuria was Chinese cents or Japanese sen, therefore by regulation; the 7k postal stationery envelope would have been invalid for postage payment.
2. Tchilinghirian & Stephen Stamps of the Russian Empire used abroad Part Five, Manchuria, CER page 417.

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

10 cent. Perf. 14 x 14½, wove paper with 1mm varnish lines, no watermark, 20 sheets

10 cent. on 10k/7k¹ Perf. 14 x 14½, wove paper with 1mm varnish lines, no watermark, 50 sheets



Alignment 1
"1" left of "e"
Muling station
28.11.20



Alignment 4
"1" between "en"



Alignment 1
"1" left of "e"



Alignment 5
"1" left leg of "n"



Alignment 1
"1" left of "e"
Wide "C" Pos. 50 / 100
Harbin c.d.s. 15.12.20



Above: Alignment 2, 3 (Pos. 39 / 40)
Below: Alignment 3, 1 (Pos. 49 / 50)
Thick "t" / wide "C"

Manchuli c.d.s. Latest day 29.1.21

Largest multiple recorded² ex. Raymond Casey



10c on 10k/7k
combination with 1c on 1k and 3c on 3k
Harbin Pier c.d.s. 1.12.20

Only recorded newspaper piece

Illustrated in Ceresa^{ref.4} Plate CDXXX



Carmine-rose ovpt.³
Forgery?



Carmine-rose ovpt.³
Forgery?



Vermilion overprint forgery
Backdated Harbin c.d.s. 19.7.20
Four months earlier than issue date



Vermilion ovpt.
Forgery

1. 10k on 7k light-blue released in September 1916.

2. Plating of both 10-cent stamps is incomplete due to lack of large blocks. UPU letter rate at the time was 10c.

3. Some researchers consider the carmine-rose overprint being genuine, possibly from a second printing.

THE HARBIN PROVISIONAL OVERPRINT: THE 1920 ISSUE

10 cent. on 10k/7k – usage



11 December 1920 registered 10k letter-card from Harbin to Germany sent via Yokohama uprated 10 cent. on 10k/7k blue with 1 mm varnish lines. Cottbus arrival 26 January 1921

One of few commercial use of the 10 cent. on postal stationery *ex. Raymond Casey*



15 December 1920 letter mailed from Harbin railway station post office to Russian Consulate-General Shanghai
10 cent. on 10k/7k blue with 0.7 mm varnish lines

Shanghai arrival 19 December 1920

One of few commercial use
of the 10 cent. on cover

ex. Raymond Casey

